SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has tested an indigenously developed air-to-air missile with a range of 10 Kms on June 21st.

(c) Government keep under constant review the developments with a bearing on India's security and take all necessary counter-measures.

Merger of Hotel Corporation of India with I.T.D.C.

987. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2268 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the modalities of merger of Hotel Corporation of India with I.T.D.C. have been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The modalities of the merger of Hotel Corporation of India with ITDC are still under examination of the Government. In view of the complexities of the issues involved, no time frame can be specified about arriving at a final decision.

Financial condition of Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

988. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. is in great financial distress;

(b) if so, what are the latest details in this regard; and

(c) whether Govt. have made any attempts to improve its performance; if so, what are the details with results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) CSL is facing some financial difficulties on account of acute cash flow position caused by unremunerative prices fixed for the vessels and heavy interest liability on the loans advanced to the Shipyard. Various remedial measures for improving the financial health of the Company including revision of pricing formula, restructurng the capital base, interest holiday, moratorium on all loans upto 31.3.89, reimbursement of cash losses, import duty concessions, increasing the cash credit limit with the State Bank, etc. are under examination.

CIA's statement regarding 'Agni'

989. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reoprted CIA's statement that "Agni" was not indigenous but a product of technology transferred by the U.S.A. and West Germany; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has repeatedly asserted that the Agni

launch was a technology demonstration based on indigenous efforts.

990. [*Transferred to the 3rd August, 1989*].

Pakistan's proposal for Regional Approach on Nuclear Non-Proliferation

991. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has again proposed a regional approach to the nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of Pakistan's proposals on nuclear matters made in a narrow regional or bilateral context. Government are of the view that nuclear non-proliferation is a global issue and has no bilateral or regional solution.

Shortage of Railway Wagons for Jaggery Trade

992. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of railway wagons has severly hit the Jaggery trade at Anakapalle on the South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide sufficient wagons for movement of Jaggery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Union Government's Assistance to develop Tourist Centres in the States

993. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide special assistance to each State Government for developing tourist centres in their States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the assistance granted to each State by the Union Government during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) what are the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative; what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The details of State-wise assistance granted during the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(e) The assistance given to the State Governments depends on the specific schemes and not to be treated as special assistance.